

REMARKS BY DR. G. WAYNE CLOUGH  
**Dedication of the J. Erskine Love Jr. Manufacturing Building**  
August 28, 2000, 4:00 p.m.

Erskine Love first set foot on this campus as a 16-year-old boy from a small town in South Carolina. And throughout his life he often said that next to God and his family, he loved Georgia Tech.

Georgia Tech has been enriched in countless ways by that love. Erskine immersed himself fully in campus life, pledging Delta Tau Delta and serving as president of the Ramblin' Reck Club, a member of ANAK and the Omicron Delta Kappa honorary fraternity, editor of *Technique*, manager of the baseball team and editor of the *Blueprint* in his senior year. In fact, it was his experience with the *Blueprint* that piqued his interest in the printing process.

He started Printpack within eight years of graduating, and over the next three decades he shepherded the company from two employees and one machine to 1,200 employees at eight manufacturing and 15 sales facilities. But he still made time for Georgia Tech. He was a trustee and president of the Georgia Tech Foundation and a trustee of the Alumni Association. He was a charter member of the Thousand Club, and he was chairing the hugely successful Centennial Campaign when he died unexpectedly in 1987 at the age of 58. Larry Gellerstedt, a fellow alumnus and close friend, and Charlie Yates then stepped forward to carry the Campaign to a successful conclusion.

Georgia Tech was only one of many community organizations that Erskine Love made time to serve. He was devoted to his church and to a number of educational institutions and service agencies because, he said, "Every time we delegate to government a job that is now being handled by the private sector, we add another layer to the bureaucracy insulating us from concern for our neighbor and our neighbor's concern for us."

Today his wife Gay and their children walk in Erskine's footsteps, not only operating Printpack as a thriving, growing company, but also continuing to give to this community and to support the same institutions and organizations that Erskine loved, including Georgia Tech.

On September 18, 1986, less than six months before his own untimely passing, Erskine Love addressed Georgia Tech's faculty, students, and friends in the Coliseum at the memorial service for Tech President Joe Pettit, who had died three days earlier. And he said, "We are not at the end, but at the beginning."

I echo his words this afternoon as we recall what Erskine Love meant to this Institute and dedicate this new manufacturing building to him: "We are not at the end, but at the beginning." Today heralds the beginning of a living legacy that honors the life of Erskine Love.

December of 1998 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Erskine's graduation from Georgia Tech with a degree in mechanical engineering, and his family honored the occasion by creating a \$5 million

endowment for the George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering. The investment income from this endowment will support education and research programs in manufacturing-related subjects, including interdisciplinary research among faculty and students of the various schools in the College of Engineering.

Today, in the dedication of the J. Erskine Love Jr. Manufacturing Building, we acknowledge the importance of that contribution to Georgia Tech. And at the same time, we lift up the ethics, values, spirit of entrepreneurship, and devotion to excellence that characterized Erskine's life as a model for our students, faculty, and staff.

Ever since Georgia Tech's earliest days, when students helped to support the school by making equipment and machinery for Georgia industries, this Institute has been integrally involved with manufacturing. We know that at the most fundamental level, the health of our economy depends on manufacturing, and that is as true today as it was when Georgia Tech was founded. E-commerce and dot-coms might be getting most of the attention, but it is manufacturing that actually creates wealth. All other parts of the economy merely move it around.

Today's manufacturing plants are high-tech operations that are orchestrated and integrated, from the intake of materials to the shipping of the product, for speed, flexibility, and efficiency. Their processes require the interaction of many disciplines, and here at Georgia Tech we bring those disciplines together to share ideas and work in concert in a specially designed interdisciplinary complex. The J. Erskine Love Jr. Manufacturing Building is the third in this set of buildings, which also includes the Manufacturing Related Disciplines Complex and the Manufacturing Research Center.

The Erskine Love Manufacturing Building will bring together faculty and students from many places on campus to tackle the problems and challenges facing manufacturing. But there are two schools that will have the largest presence here. First, the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering, which is the beneficiary of the Love Endowment. At this time I would like to introduce Dr. Ward Winer, who holds the Eugene Gwaltney Chair in Manufacturing and chairs the Woodruff School, to say a few words.

(Ward Winer speaks)

The second major participant in the life of this building is the School of Materials Science and Engineering, which will make its primary home here. And I would like to invite Dr. Ashok Saxena, chair of the School of Materials Science and Engineering, to say a few words.

(Ashok Saxena speaks)

Mark Taylor began his public service career in 1986 when he was elected as the youngest member of the Georgia State Senate. I had the pleasure of meeting him soon after I returned to Georgia Tech as president six years ago. Both of us come from South Georgia. I come from the little town of Douglas; Mark comes from Albany, which we considered a pretty big city when I was growing up. Then I came to Atlanta to attend Georgia Tech and learned a new definition of the word city.

After twelve years in the Senate, Mark Taylor was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1998. He has made economic development one of his top priorities, and he understands that manufacturing is at the heart of economic development. In addition to serving as chair of the Rural Development Council created by Governor Barnes, he also created the Lieutenant Governor's Manufacturer's Roundtable to exchange ideas and develop recommendations to help keep Georgia's manufacturing industries healthy.

The new Erskine Love Manufacturing Building is also devoted to keeping Georgia's manufacturing industries healthy, and we are very pleased to welcome Lieutenant Governor Taylor to our campus to help us celebrate its dedication. Lieutenant Governor Taylor...

(Mark Taylor speaks)

Thank you, Lieutenant Governor Taylor.

The purpose of this building and the significance of its naming are represented in a unique piece of artwork that traces the history of the disciplines that come together in this building and commemorates the life of Erskine Love. It was created by Bevan Suits of Perkins & Will, and I would like to ask Bevan to stand – not only to acknowledge him, but so that you can see who he is. He will be standing by his artwork after the program to answer any questions you might have.

At this time I would like to introduce Gay Love to you to say a few words on behalf of her family and to lead in unveiling the artwork.

(Gay Love speaks; unveiling)

That concludes our dedication program. We now invite all of you to join us for a reception on the second floor and to tour the building.